

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

ScholarWorks @ UTRGV

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers -
Newsletters

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers

3-29-1990

Newsletter - 1990-03-29

E. De la Garza

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/kikadelagarzanews>



Part of the [State and Local Government Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers - Newsletters, UTRGV Digital Library, The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers - Newsletters by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.

NEWSLETTER

101-1252

29 March 1990

Washington

DC

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY. Last week I was privileged to join the President and Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, as well as my colleague Pat Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, to designate March 20th as **National Agriculture Day**. American farmers and ranchers are the most enterprising, capable, and productive in the world. America can be very proud of its agriculture. We enjoy the safest, most wholesome and affordable food supply in the world. Although American farmers represent only 2 percent of our population, they are the backbone of a system that generates \$800-900 billion of economic activity annually. Every farmer now feeds and clothes 120 people here and abroad.

Because of the efficiency of our agricultural system, American consumers spend barely 10% of their total personal consumption expenditures on food, the lowest proportion of any country in the world. This compares with 12% for Canada, 19% for Japan, 28% for the Soviet Union and nearly 50% for China, India, and the Philippines.

Our farmers' level of productivity continues to outpace productivity in the nonfarm sector. Over the last 10 years, farm productivity has increased by more than a fourth, over twice the pace of the nonfarm sector. For example, in 1910-1914 it took 135 hours of farm labor to produce 100 bushels of corn -- today, it takes about 2.5 hours!

We here in Washington are hard at work on the new farm bill which will continue the thrust of the market-oriented policies of the 1985 Act which have helped get American agriculture back on a sound economic course. Agriculture is on the rebound, and we will continue to build on that momentum! Let me join with the rest of a grateful nation in paying a personal tribute to the **American farmers and ranchers and all who work with them -- without a doubt the best in the world!**

#

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES. The U S Department of Labor has announced that the federal minimum wage will increase to \$3.80 an hour effective April 1. The current federal minimum wage is \$3.35. The Department also announced new regulations implementing a training wage of not less than \$3.35 per hour for certain employees under age 20. The training wage does not apply to migrant or seasonal agricultural workers or to non-immigrant agricultural workers performing temporary or seasonal work. Employees paid at the training wage for 90 days can be employed at the training wage for 90 additional days by a different employer, if that employer provides on-the-job training in accordance with the new regulations.

Employers cannot displace employees or reduce wages in order to hire employees at the training wage. The training wage provisions expire March 31, 1993. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA), amended by Congress in November 1989, continues to require overtime pay at time and a half the regular rate of pay after 40 hours in a work week.

Employees are covered by the FLSA if they engage in interstate commerce or produce goods for interstate commerce. Also, all employees of firms that have an annual business volume of over \$500,000 will generally be covered. Public agencies, schools, hospitals, and certain other types of businesses will be covered regardless of dollar volume. In addition, under certain conditions employers of tipped employees can take a 40 tip credit toward their minimum wage obligations. This credit will increase to 45 on April 1.

#

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE. It might interest you to know that your Congressman, as a World War II veteran, has been asked to serve on the National Archives World War II Commemorative Committee. This is an honorary committee which will lend advice and counsel to the National Archives as it plans a wide variety of public programs to commemorate the 50th anniversary of America's participation in World War II.

The programs planned will begin in 1991 and continue through 1995, and include three major exhibitions, two of which will travel nationwide, educational teaching materials and workshops, film festivals, and symposia. A major conference of the Office of Strategic Services, the intelligence gathering network of WWII, will be held at the National Archives on July 11-12, 1991. These efforts will be to honor all veterans of World War II and the memory of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who lost their lives in the conflict. I am proud to be a part of this salute to our veterans.

#

HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN GEOGRAPHY. I'm sure you have read the alarming reports about the deficiency of American school children -- and even college students -- in geography. Now the U S Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement has published a new booklet, **Helping Your Child Learn Geography**. Published in cooperation with the U S Geological Survey and with assistance from Hammond, Incorporated, this booklet, aimed at parents of children under 10 years of age, suggests everyday learning experiences to steer children's natural curiosity toward geographic questions and knowledge.

The study of geography -- the science that describes the earth's surface -- is more than knowing where things are located on a map. Geography also requires a knowledge of why things are located in particular places and how those places influence our lives. **Helping Your Child Learn Geography** describes the basic concepts of geography, includes a glossary of geographic terms, suggests informal activities and games, and provides a listing of where to get free or inexpensive materials and maps -- all of which will help children learn about the world.

As our world grows smaller and smaller with telecommunication and intercontinental travel, it is increasingly important that our young people have knowledge of other lands and cultures -- and for that matter, of their own country. For a copy of this useful booklet, send your name, address, and 50¢ to: Geography, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

#

TAX TIME. With tax time right around the corner, your tax forms should have arrived, and many older Americans are wondering if they need to file since they no longer work. You must file if your taxable pension, interest and other income amounts to \$5,100 or more, and you are single under the age of 65. If you are single and over the age of 65, the income amount is \$5,850. Married taxpayers under the age of 65 with a joint income of \$9,200 need to file, as well as married persons with a joint income of \$9,800 if one partner is age 65. Also, if married taxpayers are both age 65 and have a joint income of \$10,400, they must file a tax return.

#

VISITORS FROM HOME. Mary Lozano, Jeanne Rosales, and Estella Rivera, all of Alice; Estella Trevino, Robert Rocha, Eloisa Huerta, and Lalo Cavazos, all of Edinburg; Wandy Flores of La Blanca; Fred Garza and Noe Maldonado of Elsa; Jackie Gonzales and Angie Gonzales of Harlingen; San Juanita Rutledge of Mission; Lola Martinez of San Benito; Ruben Sepulveda, Abel Reyes, Jr, Dorothy and Gene Hobart, and Allie and John Haden, all of Weslaco; Lupe Silva-Aboud, Carol Ann Roberts, Angie Perez, Juan Alvarez, Fidencio Guerra, Jr, and Neal Campbell, all of McAllen; Esequiel Perez, Rachel Salinas, Estella DeAnda, Roy Navarro, and Judy and Mike Coggins, all of Pharr; David Benavidez of Cotulla; Jack Nelson and Dalton Yancey, both of Santa Rosa; and Erich and Elvira Wendl of Corpus Christi.

#